

Superintendent, in his annual report of 1855, states that in many towns it is next to impossible to find a person really qualified for the office, and, in most cases, the duties of the Town Superintendent are not faithfully performed, because of the lack of interest, or from an inadequate compensation. He discussed the effect which the creation of the office of County Superintendent would have upon the teachers and the patrons of the schools. In his opinion, this office should not be substituted for that of the Town Superintendent, but be correlative to it. Hon. J. L. Pickard argues in his first annual report, as State Superintendent, in 1860, that the system of Town Superintendency had not the confidence, nor the support of the people, nor sufficient merit to secure that confidence and support. Under it, the inspection of teachers and schools was declared to be nearly worthless. To the influence of Mr. Pickard, are our schools mainly indebted for the substitution of the County for the Town Superintendents, as that office was created under his administration. The reasons for the change were set forth by the principal educational men in the State, as providing better supervision of the schools by securing the full time and the undivided energies of a man competent for the business; as raising the standard of teachers by more thorough and public examinations; as arousing among the people a greater interest in schools by establishing County Associations and Teachers' Institutes, and as introducing uniformity and harmony in the educational efforts of the State. The experience of nearly seven years has shown that this office has also tended to improve the school houses and the school furniture; to assist in bringing about a better classification of both studies and scholars in our schools; to increase the salaries and the influence of teachers; and to establish the most approved methods of teaching and discipline.

There has been in operation for many years in the State a system of school government which has been adopted by most of our cities and many of our large villages, and which unfortunately was not for several years connected with the general supervision of schools, and which has not to this day, in all